



GREENSBORO URBAN AREA

Technical Coordinating Committee

TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE

Minutes of February 28, 2001

9:00 a.m. Greensboro, NC

ATTENDEES

Jim Westmoreland	TCC Chairman / GDOT	Scott Rhine	PART
Mike Mills	NC Division Seven	Gene Kimel	Town of Pleasant Garden
Tyler Meyer	GDOT	JoAnn Oerter	NCDOT
S. Frank Wyatt	Engineering & Inspections	Craig McKinney	GDOT
Alec Macintosh	City Planning	Veronica Dunlap	GDOT
Les Eger	County Planning	Peggy Seay	Triad Reporting & Typing

Chairman Westmoreland called the meeting to order of the Greensboro Urban Area MPO Technical Coordinating Committee and welcomed everyone. He stated in jest that the next time JoAnne Oerter comes to an MPO meeting, she should be sure to bring the Statewide Planning folks with her.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of January 31, 2001 Minutes

Mr. Wyatt moved the approval of the meeting of January 31, 2001, as written, seconded by Mr. Rhine. There being no discussion, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

MPO Self-Certification

Mr. Meyer said the certification was an annual statement of compliance with the various Federal requirements for the MPO process. He said it was described in more detail in the Executive Summary of the Action Items. The action recommended to the TCC was approval of the MPO Self-Certification. Mr. Wyatt moved that the TCC recommend to the TAC approval of the MPO Self-Certification, seconded by Mr. Rhine. There being no discussion, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Planning Work Program FY 2001-2002 Adoption

Mr. Meyer said the PWP was discussed in some detail at the last meeting. The PWP includes all federal planning funds for use in the area and several different sources are in use. The final version is a little different from the last version in that it includes the State Planning and Research Funds—federal funds NCDOT uses to support their planning efforts in the area.

Mr. Wyatt moved that the TCC recommend to the TAC approval and adoption of the Planning Work Program FY 2001-2002, seconded by Mr. Mills. There being no discussion, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Planning Work Program FY 2000-2001 Amendment

Mr. Meyer said this was an amendment to the current Planning Work Program, the one which was adopted last February. It affects the Federal Highway portion of those funds. He explained that there is an allocation every year. Funds which are not spent at the end of the year, or funds which are not programmed in the first place, go into a reserve account. This action will take some of the surplus funds, funds in the program this year which are not expected to be used, and move them to the reserve account—they can then be amended back into the PWP as needed. If the funds are left in the program until the end of the year, then NCDOT's audit clearance procedures effectively freeze them for two years. That flexibility will be important over the next couple of years, including the update of the traffic model. Mr. Wyatt moved that the TCC recommend to the TAC approval of the Amendment to the current Planning Work Program for FY 2000-2001, seconded by Mr. Rhine. There being no discussion, the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

Urban Loop Intelligent Transportation System Projects

Chairman Westmoreland said the Committee would remember a presentation by Joanne Oerter of NCDOT at the last meeting about the possibilities of adding intelligent transportation systems components Greensboro Urban Loop. Staff has reviewed the proposal and developed recommended actions. These actions include MPO support for the ITS components that are proposed for the Southern Loop: From I-40 and I-85 over to I-85; the Western Urban Loop, from I-85 to Bryan Boulevard; and that portion of the Eastern Urban Loop which goes between I-85, I-40, and US 70. They recommend not supporting the ITS components in the rest of the Loop at this time. They recommend using any of the additional fund that were proposed to fund those portions of the project be used to accelerate the Eastern Urban Loop between US 29 and US 70. The other part of that resolution would be encouraging cost savings, where possible, by connecting to fiber optic cables that will be installed in the City Advanced Signal System rather than running the cable around the full length of the project. If feasible, this could result in some significant cost savings..

Mr. Wyatt moved that the TCC recommend to the TAC the adoption of the resolution prepared by staff, seconded by Mr. Rhine. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Southern Urban Loop (I-2402) Update

Mr. Mills gave the TCC an update on the Southern Urban Loop. The section running from US 70 down and around south of Greensboro to I-85, with a portion north of existing I-85 which ties into Clapp Farm Road, that includes the interchange with I-85/I-40, has a completion date of July or August, 2001.

The section heading south from I-40 down to Wiley Lewis Road has a completion date of June 1, 2003. From Wiley Lewis Road to Elm-Eugene, and from Elm-Eugene to I-40, are the other two sections, and these have a completion date of August 15, 2003.

Everything now appears to be either on schedule or slightly ahead. However, they will not open up the entire Southern Loop until everything is completed. They hope to open up the interchange on I-85 at Replacements Limited sometimes this summer. The additional lanes on I-85 hopefully will be opened in about 30 days.

The total cost of Southern Loop construction (about 14 miles) is about \$166 million. The Southern Loop is to be six lanes all the way, and may widen out near the interchanges with I-85 on the east and I-85 on the west. There will be some kind of median protection, either cable guardrail or guardrail in the median the whole way.

A short discussion followed concerning ways to make improvements at certain interchanges and roadways which are two lanes at the Urban Loop crossing, but multi-lanes closer to the City. This topic will be further explored and discussed at future meetings.

US 421 Interchanges (R-2612) Update

Chairman Westmoreland said they were due to hear from Scott Walston on this item, but Mr. Walston could not attend.

Mr. Mills said it was his understanding that the current plan is for Neely Road to be an overpass, with an interchange at Woody Mill.

Mr. Meyer suggested that the Project Engineer come in and update the TCC on the process which will be used to complete the Environmental Document including upcoming opportunities for public comment relative to what will be constructed at Neely Road. He understood construction was to scheduled to begin on Wood Mill in 2006, and right-of-way for Neely Road in 2008, with construction date later.

OTHER ITEMS

TCC Member Updates

Chairman Westmoreland said that public meetings are scheduled for the Friendly Avenue, Lake Jeanette Road, and Creekridge Road Improvements. The Friendly Avenue meeting is schedule for tomorrow evening at the Westminster Presbyterian Church from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. That involves roadway improvements from Westridge Road to Holden Road.

The Lake Jeanette meeting is scheduled for March 8 at Cathedral of His Glory from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The Creekridge Road meeting is scheduled for March 12 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Archer Elementary School.

Each project involves options to provide landscaped median divided sections in certain areas. There are some inherent safety benefits to that approach in addition to the aesthetic benefits. The hope is that sidewalks can be constructed on both sides of the each project—this is needed to make the community more walkable.

Chairman Westmoreland said a Project Planning Study would probably begin for Merritt Drive later this spring. It is currently a 5-lane section from I-40 back to Spring Garden Street. They are looking to extend the 5-lane section or some other kind of multi-lane section from I-40 to High

Point Road. The NCDOT currently has that bridge closed and it is on schedule to reopen as a five lane bridge this spring.

Chairman Westmoreland said they were currently working with NCDOT on the improvements to the NC 68 corridor. The City does have part of its bond projects monies identified for improvements to NC 68. Another project under consideration of a feasibility study to look at a possible Pegg-Thatcher Road connection across I-40 to the west of NC 68.

Mr. Meyer noted the Supreme Court ruling on the Clean Air Act case. He explained the impact which he thought the ruling would have on transportation. The ultimate impact is uncertain, but it appears likely to involve at least some delay in the implementation of the eight hour ozone standard somewhat. More information on this will be presented as it comes available.

Mr. Mills was asked about Talbert Road, between Alliance Church Road and Neely Road. Since Alliance Church Road has been cut off at US 421, traffic is now cutting through Talbert Road. The people in that area have been complaining in that Talbert Road was not built to handle the volume of traffic which is there now. Mr. Mills was to look into the matter.

Mr. Mills was also asked about the possibility of an intersection upgrade and a possible right-turn at Neely Road and Pleasant Garden Road. It is a T-intersection and backs up a lot of traffic waiting to turn left.

Mr. Kimel said that one of the citizens had donated to the city of Pleasant Garden 50-acres for the future municipal facility on Alliance Church Road, which is an ideal location. He said that if the State could probably build a satellite operation there for maintenance if they were interested. Mr. Kimel further advised that Pleasant Garden has now purchased cameras and radar equipment for the Sheriff's Department, so perhaps they can now slow some of the traffic down.

Staff informational items

Chairman Westmoreland said he would like to announce a staff promotion which had been made in the City's Department of Transportation. He said he was pleased to announce that Tyler Meyer had been promoted to the position of Transportation Planning Division Manager. He congratulated Mr. Meyer, and said he looked forward to bigger and better things from Mr. Meyer in his new capacity.

Mr. McKinney said he had two announcements:

- Pleasant Garden and the Southern Guilford County area are having an open house Vision Statement presentation this even at Pleasant Garden Elementary School from 4:30 to 9:00 p.m.
- On March 7, 2001, the NCDOT Planning, Developmental And Environmental Analysis Branch is holding a public information workshop for the proposed additional bridge over US 29 at McKnight Mill Road. The meeting will be held at the Memorial Presbyterian Church on McKnight Mill Road from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Westmoreland commented that that improvement is needed in light of the pedestrian crossing fatalities that have occurred at that location. He thought it was a wise move by NCDOT behalf to look at putting a pedestrian bridge at that location.

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There being no further business before the Technical Coordinating Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.